

A report issued by the American Cancer Society on a poll of doctors on cigarettes and lung cancer gained press attention in some areas.

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PHYSICIANS POLLED

Many Doctors Link Smoking and Cancer

By JOHN TROAN
Scripps-Howard Science Writer

• No opinion—14 per cent.

One-third of the physicians in the U. S. are now convinced cigaret smoking is "a major cause of lung cancer."

Almost as many believe this "probably" is true.

The figures are based on a cross-section survey of doctors conducted for the American Cancer Society by the University of Chicago's national opinion research center.

MEETING

The society released the findings today in conjunction with its annual meeting in New York.

One of the questions asked in the survey was this: "Is cigaret smoking a major cause of lung cancer?"

Here's how the doctors replied:

- Definitely—33 per cent.
- Probably—31 per cent.
- Probably not—13 per cent.
- Definitely not—9 per cent.

The poll disclosed fewer than half of the physicians now use cigarets. The breakdown: 43 per cent smoke regularly and 5 per cent do so occasionally.

It didn't seek to find out how many doctors smoke cigars or pipes.

23 PER CENT

Of those who don't smoke cigarets, 23 per cent never did. Most of the others quit in the past nine years, during which time the controversy over cigarets and lung cancer has reached a peak.

Statistics show heavy cigaret smokers do develop lung cancer more frequently than others. But the tobacco industry contends this doesn't prove cigarets actually cause such cancer. It also questions the validity of some of the statistics.

Nevertheless, The World Health Organization as well as Government health agencies in the U. S., Great Britain, The Netherlands and Sweden have concluded cigarets are a major cause of lung cancer.

Ask Yours and See

Most Doctors Connect Lung Cancer, Smoking

By Stuart H. Loory

Here are some questions to ask your family doctor or a specialist about the relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, and here also are the answers he is likely to give you.

1. Is cigarette smoking a major cause of lung cancer?

Two out of three in a nationwide representative sample of physicians think so. Half of these say smoking "definitely" is; the other half say it "probably" is.

2. Should I stop smoking?

One-third say they routinely advise their patients to stop. Another 58 per cent advise against smoking by patients with respiratory ailments, heart or blood circulation troubles, weight loss, gastro-intestinal trouble, when they think smoking is causing "general" damage, when patients are "receptive" to the idea or when their patients are "heavy" (a pack or more a day) smokers.

3. Do you smoke cigarettes, doctor, or did you ever smoke?

Two out of five smoke regularly, 5 per cent have smoked occasionally, 29 per cent used to but have stopped smoking and 23 per cent never smoked.

4. (If your doctor has stopped smoking) How long ago did you stop?

Eight per cent stopped less than three years ago, 3 per cent three or four years ago, 7 per cent five to nine years ago

(meaning one in five cut out smoking since the recent evidence of an association with lung cancer), and 10 per cent stopped nine or more years ago.

587 Doctors Quizzed

These are among the questions the American Cancer Society asked a sample group of 587 doctors throughout the country last year in hour-long interviews. The society commissioned the study to determine how well it was getting its professional education program across to doctors.

The results were reported yesterday during the society's annual meeting in the Hotel Biltmore.

The study, conducted by the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Chicago, also revealed that three out of four doctors advised their adult patients to have an annual physical examination no matter how well they feel. The examinations, the doctors said, should include an annual chest X-ray and a pelvic examination for women as a precaution against specific types of cancer.

More than two out of ten doctors, however, advised against annual chest X-rays for men over forty-five. One quarter of these gave as a reason their belief, that radiation can be harmful.

The rest of the study was devoted to doctors' work habits, reading habits and recreation, and economic information.

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